

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 05453 211704Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 SY-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 USSS-00 /074 W
-----066739 211707Z /43

P 211651Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8020
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 05453

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, GE, CZ, ASEC
SUBJECT: EXPLOSION AT RESIDENCE OF CZECH AMBASSADOR IN
EAST BERLIN.

1. AN EXPLOSION OF CONSIDERABLE FORCE OCCURRED AT THE
EAST BERLIN RESIDENCE OF THE CZECH AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR
ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 AT APPROXIMATELY 1700 HOURS. THE
BLAST DESTROYED ALL THE WINDOWS ON THE GROUND FLOOR,
BLEW OUT PART OF THE ROOF ON A ONE-STORY SECTION OF THE
HOUSE, AND RAISED A HUGE CLOUD OF DUST AND SMOKE. NEIGHBORS
WHO RAN TO THE SCENE WERE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 05453 211704Z

RESIDENCE BY THE GDR POLICE GUARD MANNING THE PERMANENT
GUARD POST DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE HOUSE. THE POLICEMAN HIM-
SELF WOULD NOT ENTER THE RESIDENCE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS URGED
TO DO SO BY THE BYSTANDERS, WHO FEARED THERE WERE POSSIBLY
INJURED PERSONS INSIDE. HE SAID HE HAD "INFORMED THE
AUTHORITIES" AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR, HIS FAMILY AND STAFF
HAD LEFT THAT MORNING ON HOLIDAY.

2. THE DUTCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR, FROM WHOM THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED, LIVES ABOUT 100 YARDS FROM THE CZECH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, AND IMMEDIATELY RAN TO THE SCENE OF THE BLAST. HE REPORTED IT TOOK ABOUT 30 MINUTES FOR ANYONE TO ARRIVE AT THE SCENE, AND AT LEAST AN HOUR FOR AN AMBULANCE TO ARRIVE. ALTHOUGH NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO DISPERSE THE CROWD THAT HAD GATHERED, OBSERVERS COULD NOT DETERMINE IF THERE WERE ANY INJURED PERSONS AND WHETHER THEY WERE REMOVED FROM THE HOUSE OR NOT. LATER IN THE EVENING THE STREET WAS CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC, BRIGHT LIGHTS WERE MOUNTED INSIDE THE HOUSE, AND A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION WAS APPARENTLY IN PROGRESS.

3. US EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HEARD THE EXPLOSION, AND HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE STREET WAS CLOSED TO FOOT AND AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC SUNDAY NIGHT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE EXPLOSION COULD HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTAL, THE COINCIDENCE WITH THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ALSO SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY OF A BOMB BLAST, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO WOULD TAKE THE RISK INVOLVED, OR WHY SUCH AN ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE AGAINST THE CZECH AMBASSADOR HERE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT OCCURRED. BOLEN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 05453 211704Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, BOMB DAMAGE, BUILDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN05453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780341-0516
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780839/aaaabgnj.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6cfadc5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1666341
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPLOSION AT RESIDENCE OF CZECH AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN.
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, GC, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6cfadc5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014